

THE CURRENT.

WM. H. MULLANE

Official Paper of Eddy County.

Published every Saturday at Carlsbad, N.M., and entered as 2nd class mail matter.

BATURDAY, NOV. 23, 1899.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

WEEKLY—by mail per annum..... \$2.00.
by mail per six months..... \$1.00.

The condition of the bridges across ditches between town and Malaga neighborhood is a shame and disgrace to the country. Not a single bridge is safely passible between Carlsbad and Florence. The rainy season if there is to be any, is coming soon as well as the season of heavy hauling such as alfalfa, beets, gyp corn and produce of all kinds. While the county has money to send down to Dallas to get man on an old worn out assault case it would seem a little might be spared to repair the bridges.

The United States intervened when our people were led to believe that Spain was killing the Cubans and Filipinos, but how about the horrible robbery about to be perpetrated by England on the Boers of South Africa? The following explains the situation quite fully:

Olive Schreiner (Mrs. Cronwright) contributes an eloquent cable letter on the Transvaal situation to the Manchester Guardian. She says:

Let England clearly understand what war in South Africa means. The largest empire the world has ever seen will hurl its full force against a small state and about 30,000 men, including tads of 10 and old men of 90, without a standing army or organized commissariat. The entire little people will have to resort itself into an army. Wives and daughters will prepare the bread and meat at the farmers' will put in their saddlebags when they go to meet the enemy. Today the women of the Transvaal are demanding guns that they may take part in the last stand. We may crush the little people with the aid of Australians and Canadians, since the British Isles seem unable to crush them alone. We may take their land and lower the little flag of his independence, so dear to the Boer, but we shall have placed a stain upon our own that centuries will not wash out. Only the international speculator who, through persistent misrepresentations and by means of the press, has wrought this evil, will gain and till his already overburdened pockets with South African gold."

Americans Must Decide.

Ever-sent Washington rumors of the president's determination to call an extra session of Congress are probably due in large part to the suggestion made by President Schurman of the Philippine commission that this be done for the purpose of securing an authoritative expression of American intent regarding the holding of the Philippines.

As far as President McKinley and the administration party are concerned however that has been manifested no desire to await a declaration of Congress on this issue. Mr. McKinley has already announced himself as in favor of the permanent establishment of American sovereignty in the Philippines. His party has accepted his leadership on this issue and stands definitely committed to foreign expansion. The Globe Democrat voices the republican argument in defense of this position when it says: "The United States will retain the sovereignty in the Philippines and in Porto Rico. To do less would be to admit that this nation regards territorial extension gained by honorable treaty is exactly the policy followed by Great Britain, Germany, Russia and France. It has prevailed in India and in Africa. It is shaping affairs for the partitioning of China. It will prevail in any other quarter of the globe where a weaker people offer the booty of conquest to a stronger. "Honorable treaty" is a very elastic under term under such conditions.

The American people are confronted with the stern necessity of making a prompt and early choice between continuing adherence to the principles upon which their government has attained its legitimate supremacy over one half of the world's territory and a surrender of these principles for the privilege of joining the land-grabbing rush in the world's other half. If the choice is in favor of a repudiation of American doctrine the people must stand ready to abide the consequences. They must willingly vote for the establishment and maintenance of a big and ever-increasing army. They must not protest against the development and nurture of the militarist spirit, the gravest of all menaces to republican institutions. They must acknowledge the infinitely increased hazard of war with the other big land-grabbing powers. They must confess that Europe is

no longer under moral obligation to respect American dominance of Western Hemisphere affairs, since this government takes a hand in disturbing the balance of power in the Eastern.

Are the American people willing to embark on this un-American and most ominous career of territorial extension into the Old World? Are they willing to surrender their Americanism for the guilty spoils gained from weaker people through violence to the American principles of the right of all peoples to self-government? If they are they will follow the imperialist colors to the Far East or whithersoever those colors may lead in conquest and opulence of smaller nations. If they are not, they will support the stand taken by the Democratic party, which contends that the teachings of the founders of this government are still worthy of respect and obedience, and that the Monroe doctrine is to-day as vital to the greatness and safety of this country as on the day it was first enunciated.

George Scarborough, who was called hurriedly last week to the scene of the holdup on the S. P., returned Thursday. Mr. Scarborough says that the robbers were easily trailed to within one-half mile of Wilcox, Ariz., where, owing to the amount of cattle in the country, all signs were obliterated. Mr. Scarborough also says that from the best evidence he could obtain, there was not more than two or three engaged in the work. With a reward of only \$30 offered there is not likely to be any very active work done toward capturing them. Men who go after such desperadoes know well that, if found, they will fight and they are not so foolish as to set themselves up for a

A TART REPORT.
A good story is told about former Governor George S. Houston. Houston and one of the public men now distinguished in the public life of the state had an appointment to deliver public speeches. They had to drive a long distance before dinner time and arrived at a farmhouse in time for dinner. Houston was sick. His companion had a ravenous appetite.

"Mr. Houston," said the housewife, with some indignation, "I see you ain't eating much. I know the dinner ain't much, but it is the best I could get up. I'm sorry you don't appreciate the dinner."

"My good woman, the dinner is perfect, but I am ill. In addition to that I have got to make a speech immediately, and I can't speak well after eating freely."

"Yes," said the good housewife, with spirit, "it's just like this—an empty wagon makes the loudest noise." Houston was silent. The other man ate ravenously.—Birmingham (Ala.) Age-Herald.

Glory No Temptation.

A few years ago the river drivers were working on the west branch. The logs had jammed into a nasty snarl, and no one bankered for the job of going out with a canting and starting the k.-log. In the crew was an Indian who was noted for his coolness and his keenness. The boss finally looked over in his direction. "Lacooote," he said, "you go out and break that jam, and I'll see that you get a nice puff in the paper."

The redskin looked at the logs and then at the boss. "Dead Injun look nice on paper," he grunted, and walked away.—*Arroostook (Me.) Pioneer*.

Enriched for Once.

"Sir," began the book canvasser, "I have a little work here"—"Sorry," interrupted the busy man, "but I have a great deal of work here. Good morning!"—*Chicago News*.

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target for any such money.—*El Paso Times*.

OLD SCHOOL WARRANTS.

Opinion of the Solicitor General as to Their Validity.

The following is the copy of a letter from Solicitor General Bartlett that will be of interest throughout the territory. Hon. M. C. de Baca, superintendent of Public Instruction, Dear Sir:—Yours of yesterday enclosing two school warrants for \$35 each, issued April 2nd, 1895 for teachers wages, in a school district in Taos county, is received in which you ask my opinion, as to whether it will be proper for the treasurer to pay these warrants out of money now to the credit of that school district. And in reply I would say that on the 30th day of March 1895 I gave your predecessor or my opinion in which I used the following language in a similar case in San Juan county: Chapter 52 Laws of 1897, commonly known as the Bateman law compiled as sections 285-288, completed laws of 37, made it a duty of the school directors of the several districts to fund into bonds all outstanding warrants or owing debts of any kind. Such bonds to be issued on the 1st of August, 1897, and to bear interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum. The neglect or failure of the school directors to obey this law and give the proper notice and issue the bonds to the holders of warrants, should not and does not effect the validity of the same and the holders of such warrants should not suffer thereby. But these warrants should be treated as bonds as though they had been issued under the Bateman act. The present board should now give notice and call in all outstanding warrants, including these, and issue bonds therefor, as of the date August 1st, 1897, but a proper levy should be made under the Bateman law for their payment general fundraising in the current year cannot be used for the payment of any of these old indebtedness. Respectfully,

EDWARD L. BARTLETT,
Solicitor General.

Reduced Rates for Summer Trips. Commencing June 1st and continuing to and including September 30th, 1899, the Texas & Pacific Railway Co. will sell round trip summer tourist tickets to points in Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Quebec, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin, at a considerable reduction in rates.

If you want good private board in a quiet house and at moderate rates see J. B. Dally at Pecos Valley Hotel, 165

Can You Indulge in This?
During the day every one should take a few minutes sleep, preferably directly after the noon meal," writes Edward B. Warner in *The Landie Home Journal*. "The time given to it may seem too precious for one in business, but it will be more than compensated for by the mental and bodily condition that follows. Sit in an easy chair. Lying down directly after a meal crowds the digestive organs and makes one's sleep restless instead of restful, just the head comfortable. Tip the chair to a pleasant angle for the body, not enough to have the weight of the body on the back. Place the feet on a chair as high or a trifle higher than the one upon which you are sitting; cross the ankles together by interlacing the fingers, place the fleshy part of the thumbs together in order to avoid grasping the hands too tightly and close the eyes. Having thus closed the circuit, it will be necessary to relieve yourself of all nervous and muscular tension. Think only of your slow, measured breathing and the desire for a restful sleep."

a business

man...

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GEMS IN VERSE.

To James Whitcomb Riley.
To trail runs to the westward.
Am mine to my own place.
There's water between our lodges.
And I have not seen your face.
But since I have seen your verse.
It's easy to know the rest.
Because in the hearts of the children
There is neither east nor west.
Born to a thousand for us.
Of none or evil hap.
Once they were kings together.
Threaded in a thicket, a lap.
Sparily they know that secret,
Yellow and black and white,
When they meet as kings together.
In innocent dreams at night.
With a moon they all can play with,
Gaily and grimly and unashamed,
Very happy together.
And very near to God.
—Rudyard Kipling.

The Incongruous.

"Not flirt?" I wonder what you'll ask
If I need to give up doing.
There's another foolish trick
I've been for years pursuing,
Which is to eat three times a day,
I'll give that up if so you say.
Why, Tom, I flirt at other girls
Dissolve tears and find
It far more soothing to the nerves
And cheering to the mind.
A dump, unpleasant noise.
No man will ever make me.
"Not flirt?" Why, what's the use of eyes
Or lips or golden hair?
Did Harry kiss me? Yes, he did.
You needn't stand and stare
Like any Oregon. He's my own
Dear cousin and we have been grown.
"Not flirt?" Why, even the violet
Is in competition with me.
To every whispering tether that
comes down 'long o'er the grass.
They say I've got a flower; if true,
I must do as I see them do.
"Not flirt?" why, then, do dolphins swim,
Birds sing and sheep ewe baa?
I like to be the "hope," the "life,"
The very "guiding star."
Of every handsome man I see.
I want them to make love to me.
I'd start with grandpa, dear old man,
If he were still alive.
Why, I remember with little Ben,
Who's only just turned five,
And then, for practice, I look sweet
On Dash or Bruno at my feet.
"Grow old?" Well, well, the men I know
Will grow old with me, and I'll wear
The sweetest cap and cutiest tie
And crisp my snowy hair.
I'll hang my walls with pictures of old
beau.
And make eyes at them while I knit blue
hose.
—Brooklyn Eagle.

An Old Pueblo.
Curious to know how the great gods are prized,
By common mortals, ev'ry staves made of clay,
Mercury, as a traveler dismissed.
Entered a sculptor's studio one day.
Where all the gods, alae and under ground,
For sale, as busts or statues, could be found.
"How much for Jupiter?" quoth Mercury.
"One dollar, sir; a god from foot to head."
"And Juno there, she is for sale, I see.
How much?" "Two dollars, sir," the sculptor
said.
Amused, the smiling god at length spoke.
An image of him if among the lot.
"All ten times more will he demand," he
thought.
"For me, the mighty herald of the skies."
How much for Mercury? Can I possibly
On you to part with him? Is he for sale?"
"Oh," answered him the sculptor with a grin,
"If you will buy the pair I'll throw him in."
—Charles W. Hunter in *Atlanta Constitution*.

Just Yaller Dog.
If you want a yeller dog,
Who'll stick to the end,
Get you a yeller dog.
What you do it out
If he tears things up
Or chases the chis
Till your neighbor's hicks?
He's just a common yeller dog.
Don't buy pedo's
Away up in gece—
Get common yeller dog.
He's the only kind
Who'll never mis
You're a yeller and your chis
And your stern chucks.
He's just a common yeller dog.
This you're clad in rage;
At your heel he tags.
This common yeller dog.
Bad weather or fair
He's always there;
Content with a bone
And outdoors for hours.
He's just a common yeller dog.
Unlike human friends.
He never pretends.
This common yeller dog.
Never grows at you.
When you attack.
He's always the same.
For you he'd die name;
He's just a common yeller dog.
Let no one snarl
Nor dare to bark.
This common yeller dog.
Fights like a lion.
Urges here to.
If you'd know the friend
Who'll stick to the end,
He's just a common yeller dog.
—D. C. McNeel in *Denver News*.

Would Be the Same Old World.
"I'd were a man," the woman said,
"I'd make my wife a wiz dead.
I'd lead the world with bat theory,
And I'd be famous ere I should die—
If I were a man."
"If I were a youth," the old man cried,
"I'd seize all chances; I'd go with the tide,
I'd win my way to the highest place
And stick to honor and seek his grace—
If I were a youth."
"If I were rich," the poor man thought,
"I'd give my all for the poor's support,
I'd open my door, and I'd open my heart,
And goodness and I would never part—
If I were rich."
And so, if all these fit same traits—
To whom a man, the man a man,
The poor man rich—then, in all truth,
This world would be, when we get through
Just as it is.
—James Oppenheim in *New York Sun*.

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